

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054464

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 3723 ACTION SECSTATE 15 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3723

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS ME ADDRESSES AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON ME DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSION OF ME DEVELOPMENTS WITH
EMBOFF MARCH 15, MFA DEPUTY CHIEF NEAR EAST COUNTRIES
DIVISION PYRLIN SAID EGYPT AND SYRIA ARE ANXIOUS TO
HAVE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENED AND SUPPORT SOVIET
INVOLVEMENT IN ALL CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID
SYRIA IS SERIOUS ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT, BUT THERE IS
CONCERN ABOUT HAVING A LINK BETWEEN SEPARATION OF
FORCES AND ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO A ME SETTLEMENT.
PYRLIN DENIED ARAFAT HAS BEEN INVITED TO MOSCOW AND
SHOWED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-
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EXILE. HE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF MOSCOW BROADCASTS

URGING ARABS TO SUSTAIN THE OIL EMBARGO AND
REITERATED THAT SOVIET POLICY VIEWED USE OF THE OIL
WEAPON AS AN ARAB MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. ON GENERAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ME SETTLEMENT,
PYRLIN AS USUAL FOCUSED ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE
SAID GROMYKO HAD DISCUSSED CONFERENCE WITH EGYPTIANS
AND SYRIANS. EGYPTIANS WERE ANXIOUS TO REOPEN THE
CONFERENCE AND BOTH SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS WANTED
PARTICIPATION OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN IN ALL ITS
ORGANIZATIONS OR WORKING GROUPS. PYRLIN NOTED THAT
CO-CHAIRMEN HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN MILITARY WORKING
GROUP. ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT HE WOULD RETURN TO
GENEVA, HE SAID CONFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY RECONVENE
ONLY AFTER SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT WAS
COMPLETED. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE WOULD RETURN ABOUT
MID-APRIL.

3. ON DISENGAGEMENT, PYRLIN SAID SYRIA IS VERY
SERIOUS ABOUT REACHING AGREEMENT. HE UNDERSTOOD SYRIAN
CHIEF OF STAFF AND ANOTHER SYRIAN MILITARY REPRESENTA-
TIVE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW (MARCH 16).
CHIEF CONCERN REGARDING DISENGAGEMENT IS QUESTION OF
ISRAELI COMMITMENT THAT DISENGAGEMENT BE REGARDED AS
PART OF SETTLEMENT. HE SAID GROMYKO HAD RAISED THIS
PROBLEM WITH FAHMY IN CAIRO. BUT CAIRO WAS NOT CONCERNED
THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT DIDNOT CONTAIN SPECIFIC
LINK BETWEEN DISENGAGEMENT AND SETTLEMENT. PYRLIN DID
NOT AMPLIFY REMARKS ABOUT IMPORTANCEOF SUCH A
COMMITMENT IN SYRIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, BUT LEFT
IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS VIEWED IT TO BE IN THE SYRIANS,
INTEREST.

4.PYRLIN SAID MEETING BETWEEN ARAFAT AND GROMYKO HAD
OCCURRED AT REQUEST OF SADAT. MEETING, FIRST BETWEEN
ARAFAT AND #HIGH LEVEL"SOVIET GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE,
EXPLORED GENRAL QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN ME
SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. PYRLIN SAID ARAFAT THANKED
SOVIETS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE. BUT
COULD NOT GIVE CLEAR RESPONSES TO GROMYKO'S QUESTIONS
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ABOUT PALESTINIAN OBJECTIVES. PYRLIN SAID SITUATION
THUS REMAINS THE SAME --"STILL NO UNITY." HE SAID
WHOLE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS ALSO CONFUSED BY ARAB
STATES' DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON PALESTINIANS. RECALLING
ALGIERS RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PLO AS PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATIVE, HE SAID DIFFERENT STATES SUPPORT
DIFFERENT PALESTINIAN ORGAINZATIONS. EGYPTIANS
SUPPORT ARAFAT, SYRIANS SUPPORT SAIQ'A, AND IRAQIS

SUPPORT HABASH. PYRLIN, AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY, ALSO RAISED IDEA OF PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. EGYPTIANS, HE SAID, CONTINUE TO PUSH THIS IDEA, BUT THERE ARE COMPLICATIONS. IN ADDITION TO LACK OF PALESTINIAN UNITY, PALESTINIANS HAVE NO TERRITORY (PYRLIN HERE REFERRED TO HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE DURING WORLD WAR II) AND THIS IS MAJOR OBLSTACLE TO FORMING GOVERNMENT.

5. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WESTERNNEWS MEDIA WERE REPORTING MOSCOW RADIO HAS URGED ARAB STATES TO SUSTAIN OIL EMBARGO AGAINST U.S. PYRLIN WAS VAGUE. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CABLE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (VORONTSOV) REPORTING SUCH STORIES, BUT HE "COULD NOT SAY" WHAT WAS ON MOSCOW RADIO'S RABIC SERVICE. NONE-THELESS, "OUR CORRESPONDENTS KNOW OUR POLICY" THAT ANY DECISION ON THE OIL WEAPON IS A MATTER FOR ARASBS TO MAKE.

6. PYRLIN ALSO OFFERED VIEW THAT RECENT EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC PROGRAM, WHICH HE AGREED APPEARED TO OPEN EGYPT TO BROADER FOREIGN INVESTMENT, IS RESULT OF INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM WAR WOULD BE MAJOR PROBLEM. HE SAID FAHMY TOLD GROMYKO THAT EGYPT WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE FROM ALL SOURCES, "EAST AND WEST." PYRLIN SHOWED MARKED INTEREST IN THE CLEARING OF THE SUEZ CANAL ESPECIALLY ANY ROLE UF U.S. MILITARY IN THE OPERATION HE SAID FAHMY HAD THANKED GROMYKO FOR SOVIET'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING AND RESTORING CANAL.

7. FOR THE RECORD, PYRLIN SAID GROMYKO VISIT TO
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DAMASCUS AND CAIRO HAD PROVIDED USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT TRIP HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY USEFUL BECAUSE IT WAS GROMYKO'S FIRST VISIT TO AN ARAB COUNTRY OTHER THAN EGYPT. HE HAD BEEN IN EGYPT SEVEN TIMES.

STOESSEL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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